Volume 8, Number 1 February 1978

WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER

DEVOTED TO WESTERN STATES EXONUMIA

HARD TIMES AND DEEP SNOW James Andrews

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ALUMINUM Ed. L. Saunders

AFTER THE BICENTENNIAL Stephen Album

FRENCH CAMP: OLDEST TOWN IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA J. L. McPheeters

DELBRIDGE'S CAND FACTORY MAVERICKS ATTRIBUTED Ron Lerch & Duane H. Feisel

Published by
WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY

The WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER is the official publication of the Western States Token Society, an informal, educational, non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating and maintaining interest in the tokens, medals and exonumia of the Western States.

WESTS was founded in 1971 as the California Token Society. In the same year, the name was changed to the California-Nevada Token Society to reflect the interests of its members. In 1975, the scope of interest was expanded to include all the western states, and starting in 1977, the name was changed again to its present form--Western States Token Society.

Dues are $5.00 per year, paid in advance. Members receive the WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER, as well as other benefits. Back issues of the LEDGER are available @$0.75 from the editor.

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Articles and ads should be submitted to the editor as far in advance of the copy deadline as possible. Material will not be returned unless requested specifically.

= ADVERTISING RATES AND DATA =

Members are entitled to one free six-line advertisement in each issue, but a new ad must be submitted each time. Paid line-ads are $1.00 per six lines.

Display advertising rates are $10 full page (4-1/2"x7-1/4" area), $5.50 half page, $3.00 fourth page, all for camera-ready copy. If copy is to be prepared, the rates are 50% higher. Original copy may be reduced to 80% of original size for publication; for this reduction, the original copy size shall be 5-5/8"x9" maximum.

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WESTS holds two general membership meetings each year--one in the spring and the other in the fall (usually at the annual coin show of the Delta Coin Club, Stockton, Cal.). Additionally, local membership meetings are arranged often by various members; notice of these meetings is publicized in the LEDGER. All interested persons are invited to attend any of our meetings.

WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER

MEETINGS-MEETINGS-MEETINGS-MEETINGS-MEETINGS-MEETINGS***

APRIL 22--Saturday. WESTS SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, in conjunction with the the 62nd semi-annual convention of the Cal State Numismatic Association at the Jack Tar Hotel, Van Ness at Geary, San Francisco. Meeting to begin at 3 PM in Cathedral Hill Room B.

Preceeding the meeting and starting at 1 PM will be a gathering of the California Exonomist Society, same location. Charlie Kappen is scheduled to speak on "Categories of Tokens." Visitors are welcome at the Exonomist Society meeting, as they are also at our WESTS meeting.

Of interest to exonomists will be the special exhibit by O.L. "Wally" Wallis, general chairman of the CSNA convention and a WESTS member, commemorating the 80th anniversary of Admiral George Dewey's victory at the Battle of Manila Bay on May 1, 1898. The exhibit will include numismatic pieces which have been issued to honor Admiral Dewey and to celebrate the achievement of the US naval flotilla.

The CSNA show opens on Friday morning, and will have a large dealer house, many fine displays, and a variety of meetings in addition to those described above.

MAY 20--Saturday. Regional WESTS meeting at the home of Ron Lerch, 2901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Members of the Bay Area Token Society (BATS) are also invited to attend. Starting at noon, the meeting will run until 5 PM. Ron's place is easy to reach, being located near the Route 80 freeway at the 16th Street exit. If detailed directions are needed, you can call Ron at 916-447-0753. Ron has a variety of exceptionally fine collectible items, and it is a treat to view some of his new acquisitions, plus some of his other treaures. You can expect an interest in postcards and antique paper in addition to trade tokens.

JUNE ????. Regional WESTS meeting in Carson City. This highly popular annual affair still needs to have the details arranged. Look for further information in the next issue.

JULY 2--Sunday. Regional WESTS meeting at the home of Duane Feisel, Los Altos, Cal. Also attending will be members of the Bay Area Token Society. Details to be provided in a future issue.

12 APRIL 1978 - As seems to be the case with nearly every issue of the Ledger, I find myself writing it up just after returning from a trip somewhere. This one took me to Colorado Springs, where I visited the ANA headquarters, an impressive and rather lavish building near the center of the city. The museum section contains numerous displays, elaborately mounted, but without any accompanying explanatory text. In all, I found the ANA about as disappointing as its journal, the Numismatist. From there, I drove with a friend to Chicago, to attend the Chicago International Coin Fair, one of the three large foreign coin shows in this country. Then we drove up to Iola, Wisconsin, home of Krause Publications, where I put in a short stint consulting on the Standard Catalog of World Coins. Then to the Big Apple, for a couple of days at the American Numismatic Society and a chance to visit some of my wholesale suppliers in the New York area. Finally, I stopped for a couple of days in New Orleans before returning to San Francisco. In all this, I had only one opportunity to visit with a token collector, Bruce Smith of Stevens Point WI, a specialist in Missouri tokens and checks (his home state) and proprietor of a coin and antique shop in that city. He maintains a relatively large stock of exonumia, and even had an unlisted El Centro CA token, which I bought.

NEW ISSUES - Despite the Carter administration's threats to end or severely curtail the food stamp program, tokens issues continue to abound. In recent months, Christensen & Stone, of Temple City CA, have been placing about 100 sets of these tokens in all their mail bid sales, even running a few FS only sales in the TAMS Journal. Through rather complex channels, they have succeeded in obtaining limited numbers of these sets directly from the maker, a firm in La Crosse WI. They demand minimum bids of $2.50 per set, which sounds rather high, but if you were to ferret out the sets yourself, you would probably spend at least that in gas and/or postage. They persist in calling each set "Rarity 10", a rather meaningless statement, especially as most of the sets are currently in use at the time of the sales. As a collector, I don't especially mind the $2.50 minimum, but the foolish "Rarity-10" labelling is irksome.

BOOKS EN ROUTE - Robert R. Heath (Box 464, Burlington MA 01803) has announced his catalog, Commemorative Medals of New Hampshire Cities & Towns, at $8 postpaid. The announcement arrived in this morning's mail, so I have not seen the book, but gather it will be of the same format as his Massachusetts catalogue.

It is encouraging to see new research appearing in the exonumia field after what seems like a long slow period. In the past year or so, we have had major new catalogues of California and Colorado trade tokens, Julian's fabulous catalog of US Mint medals, and several other publications of a more specialized nature. I urge WESTS members to support their fellow exonumists' efforts by adding a copy to their libraries. Fortunately, most works on exonumia are not exhorbitantly priced, and it is a rare book that has not proved its worth, not just in knowledge gained, but in purely pecuniary terms as well.

**********SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**********
by Duane H. Feisel

While I do not have my hands on the purse-strings and do not know our exact financial condition (the books are still being kept by Hal Dunn), I am continuing to keep track of the membership records and to issue the membership tokens. We need a new version of the membership application form, so I hope Wm. Williges, Jr., gets himself permanently established soon so we can get a quantity printed up.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS FOR 1978

#230 JOHN J. FORD, JR., P.O. Box 33, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. Collects: Indian trader, post trader and western sutler tokens; territorially marked tokens of western mining states; pioneer gold and ingots issued by assayers; Western obsolete paper money and scrip; numismatic literature

#231 ROBERT A PUTNAM, Scripture Tokens, 1528 SE 151st Ave., Portland, OR 97233. Collects: Metal tokens and medals with religious motifs.

ADDRESS CHANGES

#134 ROBERT E. WHITE, P.O. Box 551, Phillipsburg, MT 59858 (reported by Rich Hartzog--not verified)

#163 RICHARD D. WORTHINGTON, 4800 N. Stanton Apt. 143, El Paso, TX 79902 (effective April 22)

A LAST REPRIEVE: - In the last issue of the *LEDGER* appeared a listing of 1977 members not yet paid for 1978. That brought a good response, but the following names will be dropped from the mailing list and will not be included in the super new roster almost ready to go, unless dues payment is received soon: Posthumus, Noll, Dunn, Moore, Stanley, McCollum, Price, Mishler, Ballard (Don), Magnuson, White (Robert E.), Christiano, Zervas, Erquiaga, Heinzmann, Hetherington, Heald, Williams (Roger), Gammill, Vasquez, Weiss, Schenkman, Diekmann.

A CALIFORNIA COAL TOKEN: - It has often been stated that California is one of the states for which no coal tokens are known. I have a maverick token which I feel is very likely a California item, and which I plan to write about in a future issue. However, there is already a piece listed by Album which should qualify--Sfo 80 I5: INDEPENDENT / ICE / & COAL CO. / 19.. (sic) / & HOWARD // Good for 5 C / Ice, brass, 18, b/b. This token is not listed by Kappen, nor by Edkins in the recent coal scrip catalogue. - DHF

= HARD TIMES AND DEEP SNOW =
by James Andrews

Winter is a nine month ordeal along the backbone of the Colorado Rockies. Looking out across Leadville towards the Mosquito Range, it's hard to believe that people once lived on those frozen, snow covered slopes. Back when it was a great mining district, just living there was a test of strength--every day was a battle against adversity.

Scattered among the abandoned mine dumps are the sites of several small camps. They grew out of necessity during the period of 1880-1890. Miners were forced to live near thier jobs as blizzards and drifting snow isolated the mines for weeks at a time.

They were small settlements built on mining property. Maybe 15 to 20 houses, a school, store and a saloon or two. Living conditions were primitive. Firewood was scarce. Water was hauled in barrels from the nearest spring. Tokens from the little camps are not easy to find. Most which have surfaced were manufactured by Leadville Novelty and are the style made between 1905 and 1915.

24 mm
BRASS
5¢

Stumptown may have been named after an early citizen named Stumpf. The prefered story, though, is that during the first winter the inhabitants cut trees while standing on top of deep snow. When it melted the following summer, the camp was surrounded by stumps higher than a man could reach. After 1900, the population was predominantly Italian. Saloonkeeper, F. Ferrari, helped his fellow countrymen pass their time in the manner which miners were accustomed.

26 mm
BRASS
12-1/2¢

The least known is Graham Park. Located on the side of Iron Hill, it was forgotten by historians and overlooked by ghost towners until just a few years ago. The owner of Graham Park Saloon will remain a mystery as two places were in business during the 1905-1915 time period.

23 mm
ALUMINUM
5¢

Jonny Hill is the location of Ibex. In 1894, a rich gold strike at the Little Jonny Mine made a millionaire of manager/partner James J. Brown. That fortune financed the escapades of his eccentric wife who is remembered today as the "Unsinkable Molly Brown." Long after Jim and Molly had departed, the mines continued as major producers of the district. From about 1910, Joe Cerise speculated in mining property and operated a combination store and saloon. Joe retired a poor man and is remembered by Leadville's old timers.

Many books and stories have been written about the few who found wealth or noteriety. For the other side of the story there are still enough old folks around who actually lived in those camps can can tell what it was really like. For most, it was earning a bare living under the worst of conditions.

PANORAMA OF THE LITTLE JOHNNY MINE, LEADVILLE, COLO. PHOTOGRAPHIC POSTCARD BY SWANSON (DUANE FEISEL COLLECTION)

FRESNO MEETING: - Despite the relatively short notice, or perhaps because of it, a good turnout of collectors came to the home of John Reynolds, Clovis, Cal., for a regional WESTS meeting on Sunday, April 2. Attending were Reynolds (of course), Feisel, Runciman, Heald, D. Scott, Warren Scott, Finch, Earl, Jacobson and a post-card collecting friend of John's. A few others expected to be there, but apparently other things kept them away. There was some heavy trading going on as well as the usual buying and selling of tokens. I personally enjoyed looking at John's fine collection of postcards, and spent most of the time at the meeting drooling over some mighty nice material. John also has a large library of postcard catalogues and publications, so it was a real education to go through them. Those of you who were not there missed a great meeting! - DHF

ABOUT THE FRESNO MEETING: - In a letter, Dennis Scott writes: "I very much enjoyed the session at John's house, and it was good to see some of the bunch again. I was particularly excited about adding nine new Los Banos pieces to my collection, not to mention upgrading a few others. I now have 52 different from Los Banos! Hope to see you in May at Ron's house in Sacramento."

TRADE MIRRORS GET AROUND: - At a recent flea market "antique show" in San Jose I purchased a pair of oval shaped trade mirrors from the Oberon Saloon, Eureka, Cal. One of the mirros was without the glass, but the two different designs were ones I had not seen before on any trade mirrors. Needless to say, I was happy to have added them to my collection, and took them along to Fresno to show off at the meeting at Reynold's house. Jere Runciman said that he had a lead on a pair of trade mirrors from the same place! Then later on I went to a local coin club meeting, and Bob Swain told me that he also had a lead on a similar pair of mirrors. So either there has been found a small hoard of these mirrors (which I don't think is likely) or else I was fortunate enough to beat a couple other collectors to the punch (which is probably the case). Incidentally, this makes three mirrors from the same place for me now--I already had another oval shaped trade mirror of still another design, but I have seen the latter design on another non-trade mirror out of the mid-West. - DHF

SS REX TOKENS HELP NEEDED: - I am preparing an article for the *LEDGER* concerning tokens used on ships in California, and would like rubbings and any information for the tokens listed by Album as LA 500 S4 and S5, and by Kappen as Los Angeles 907 and 908. Thanks! - DHF

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ALUMINUM?

Edward L. Saunders

There seem to be so many collectors that put themselves at a disadvantage when it comes to collecting. I have run into so many people who said they didn't like aluminum. I can only say to such people, "What's wrong with aluminum?" It is hard for me not to like aluminum. I have received some of my highest prices for tokens of aluminum. Just after the 1973 Jamboree, I sold four rare towns out of my collection. Of the four towns, three were of aluminum. How many collectors would have Knob, Butte Meadows, or Pokegama CA tokens if they did not collect aluminum?

As far as I am concerned, aluminum is great, and some of the nicest medals and tokens have been made of it. They are often very attractive and well-made. I will show you some of the early aluminum pieces and you will see what I mean. The first few pieces are medals struck by some dealer, advertising the new metal, the metal that is Malleable, Ductile, Tasteless, Sonorous, Untarnishable, as well as Strong! It was advertised as being the lightest metal in the world, being 5 times stronger than gold and 4 times lighter than silver. And if that was not enough, it has no odor.

I am not sure that all the advertisements for the new product were altogether true. As many of us who collect aluminum tokens well know, the metal can tarnish a great deal if exposed to the wrong elements. It does have a taste, and when corroded, has a somewhat dirty smell. We do know that it is a very useful metal and has been in constant use ever since its debut in the late 1880's.

Here is a piece struck as a store card by S.H. Quint & Sons, Philadelphia medalists, probably given away at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1892-93. This medal is beautifully designed and cannot be fully appreciated for the art work in this rubbing. It has a shiny background, with Columbus holding up a flag, with several men down on their knees in a worshipful position. In the background, one can see the ocean, and two of the ships, very small but with very fine detail.

The manufacturer was a diesinker by trade, making medals for

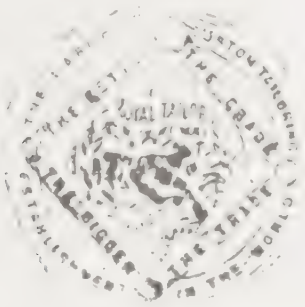
advertisement and other purposes. He was also one of the late 19th century token manufacturers. His name and address appear on the token in very neat and plain, readable writing. This was designed to impress visitors to the fair with the quality of his work, and to promote future sales of the metal aluminum in the form of tokens and medals.

The Columbian Exposition was probably one of the best things that could have happened for the new metal. It had only been put on the market some two years before. I have heard of a piece or two struck commercially as early as 1890. There are many in the following year, and by 1892, it had already reached the advertising markets. This is quite evident from the rubbing above.

Now let us look at another aluminum token that also uses the name of the metal as an advertisement, and was also sold or given away at the 1892 World's Fair. But it had no manufacturer's name on the piece. Nevertheless, it was a plug for the material in question. This piece is somewhat simpler in design than the last, yet is a very nice ad for the new metal. Columbus was the subject of this fair, so he is of course on many of the medals for the fair.

Now before going on, let's look at a couple more aluminum advertisement pieces. These were used in the Chicago World's Fair. They are nicely done, and show how attractive the new metal could be.

The first piece was intended to be a store card for a packing house, and what better way could one advertise such a business than with a bloodhound. It also attributes honor to the state of Iowa, where T.M. Sinclair & Co. was located. The second token was put out by the Royal Trust Company, a Chicago bank. If there exists a profitable gimmick, such as this token, you can be sure the banking industry isn't going to pass it by. This is not only a store card, but also a token, in that it has a stated value and use. While there exist many different bank tokens, I have seen very few that advertise safety deposit vaults.



I have one more token I believe probably came out during the Chicago World's Fair of 1892-93. I cannot confirm the fact, but in any case it is a nice advertisement by a Chicago clothier, and was surely produced before the turn of the century. Chicago must have been a city of royalty, for here is another "Royal", the Royal Tailors. This is a fancy and attractive piece, with the unusual motto around the diamond, "The better the grade, the better the trade."

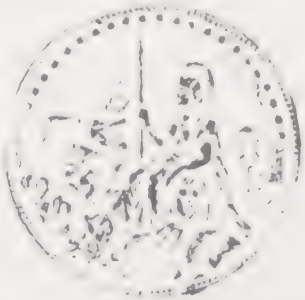
Let us now leave Chicago, the first world's fair to use the metal for numismatic purposes. The Midwinter Fair of 1894, and the St. Louis fair of 1903 also had quite a few medals made of aluminum. This was probably true of other fairs as well, such as the Buffalo NY fair in 1901, but I am not familiar with the medals of this fair. I do know they seem to have put out quite a few encased cents made of aluminum. The Lewis & Clark medals (Portland 1905) are mostly of bronze, with few in aluminum. I don't know why, but perhaps the metal was getting along well, no longer a novelty, and didn't need the publicity

it received in earlier fairs. This does not, however, mean that aluminum was not used on the West Coast. It was indeed used by many of the early Portland businesses.

But first, let's go back to the Midwinter Fair of 1894, only four years away from the metal's numismatic introduction. The Midwinter Fair saw many aluminum medals, but probably no tokens in the proper sense of the word. Here is a medal that again advertises the new metal, almost identical to the pieces struck for the Columbian Fair, and manufactured in Chicago by Noble. The piece is a plug for the metal, and has a pictorial design on the other side of the piece. It is nicely done, and meant to attract attention to the new metal.

This piece is well done, and is put out by Noble of Chicago. I would speculate that the manufacturers of the metal had a booth at the fair, to introduce aluminum to the West Coast. The picture on the reverse is of the fair itself. It shows a bear, the California state symbol, standing on a cliff overlooking the fair, with the bay pictured in the background. A rubbing cannot do justice to this very impressive showpiece made of the new metal, aluminum.

Now let's look at a few more pieces from this early fair, as well as a couple of other early West Coast aluminum pieces possibl. inspired by the medals shown at the fair.



This piece is beautifully engraved, with the state seal of California on the obverse and the Mechanics Building on the reverse. The detail is quite fine, and you can even see the hair on the bear lying at the feet of Eureka, as well as the details in

the shield, so carefully done. The other piece has the Electric Tower on the obverse, and again the Mechanics Building on the reverse. Again, the fine detail fails to show in the rubbing. Both describe very well the true beauty of the new metal, aluminum, and do justice to the marketing of the metal, and helped make it popular.

Here is a nice medal depicting the Golden Gate forty years before it was bridged over. It is a masterpiece of art. The waves in the sea and the windows of the Fort are plain to see. The reverse has another nice view of the Exposition grounds, finely done with superb detail.

The next two pieces are proper tokens, presumably used at the bars in the hotels. Of course, the word "saloon" is not mentioned, for inside an elegant 19th century hotel, the room where one drank was the "bar", never the "saloon". Both of these pictorial tokens were made in aluminum, and show how quickly the new material became popular. So, too, the manufacture of tokens and medals helped give the metal the prominence it has today.

One might think that aluminum was cheaper than bronze or brass, and for that reason became popular. To the contrary, it was more expensive in the earlier years of its development, probably 25% more on the average than brass. Today it costs maybe a third less than brass. Its cheapness is one of the reasons it is so popular today.

The last world's fair to really push aluminum seems to be the St. Louis Fair of 1903-04. Although used extensively, it was no longer advertised as the new metal. It had been almost 15 years on the commercial market and quite well-known. Here is the store card of W.H. Haskell, who must have been a St. Louis aluminum dealer. The piece might date from the late 19th century, but it is my guess that it was given out during the Fair.

The next two pieces are nicely done store cards for a stove manufacturer in Illinois. The first piece might have been a giveaway at the Fair or issued slightly after fair, for it makes reference to the stove having been awarded a gold medal at the Fair. The second piece, which makes no mention of the award, must be earlier. But both are excellent examples of

fine engraving of aluminum tokens in the early years of this century.

Aluminum, what is wrong with it? Nothing. It was used by almost every die sinker and token manufacturer within a short time of its introduction. There was a wealth of money to be made from the product. Ask Reynolds or American Can the same question, and they will tell you it has made them hundreds of millions. It has produced jobs for thousands of workers, it has made products less expensive, and is a product essential to today's society, geared to manufacturing.

Here now are a few tokens issued in aluminum by token makers, the first of which would not have been known to collectors, as this is the only piece known by him. This rare piece is made of aluminum and dated on the reverse 1936. Harry Campbell, a Utah cataloguer, says he can only find the firm listed in 1924 to 1926 at 240 E. 2nd St. in Salt Lake. I know of no other pieces from this maker. If I didn't like aluminum, I would have nothing to represent him in my collection. This piece, from the Intermountain Stamp Works has always been a token I have prized. Another Salt Lake maker, the Salt Lake Stamp Works, has some nice aluminum pieces showing the Mormon Temple on the reverse, and others with the City and County Building. I have seen them only in aluminum, but they may exist in other metals as well.

Here is one Northwest maker who had offices in two states, Washington and Oregon. These two are the only pieces I have ever heard of from this maker. I have seen many of the tokens produced by the Pacific Stamp Works, but none have an identifying signature. These two are both of aluminum and are highly treasured in my collection. The 1904 Industrial Exposition was held

just across the river from the old town of St. Johns, probably in or near the town of Linnton, Oregon.

Finally, here is one more aluminum goodie, put out by a well-known West Coast token maker, L.H. Moise, whose products were used in California, Oregon, Nevada, Washington, Idaho, Arizona, and all over Central America. His styles for both aluminum and brass tokens were very popular. This advertising piece of his own was probably issued in the 1890's. His tokens are often signed, and are prized by most of us in our collections, for we all seem to have a few of his products amongst our tokens.

The piece is somewhat similar to the Midwinter pieces of 1894, perhaps designed by the same man. A similar piece exists in brass.

You may stick up your nose at aluminum, but as for me, I like it and appreciate its usage in our hobby. If you have unwanted pieces, I'll take them and give them the home they deserve. Aluminum tokens are just as nice as any others, though one must come to appreciate them and know a little more about the wonder metal of the 1890's. The metal is of course here to stay, and we will continue to see many more aluminum tokens and medals.

SCRIP COLLECTORS, TAKE NOTE - I have available membership applications in the National Scrip Collectors Association, and will gladly sign your application for you. Dues are $5 per year, and entitle you to receive the bimonthly organ, Scrip Talk, and a certain number of free ads per year. The journal includes notes on new discoveries, ads, auctions (run each issue by the secretary, Walt Caldwell of Fayetteville WV), and the usual notes and tales. Occasion in-depth articles also appear.

AFTER THE BICENTENNIAL - Now that the Bicentennial is all but forgotten, the sudden popularity of local medal issues has all but burned out. From my estimates, there were fewer medal issues in California in 1977 than in any other year since the early 1960's, and 1978 promises to be equally bleak. Traditionally, the local medal was primarily a fund-raiser, and that was the function it attempts not all that successfully to serve during the Bicentennial year. The main reason for its failure to measure up to anticipation was not the plethora of different and potentially competing issues, a situation which really did not develop, but rather the relentless competition from the private firms pushing medals and related collectibles for their own profit. The granddaddy of these outfits is the Franklin Mint, which has in the past 13 years struck literally thousands of medals, mostly in series, sold primarily for their own benefit, though on numerous occasions, the proceeds were shared with non-profit organizations. Perhaps as many as 100 other companies have joined that rush to riches, few successfully. These are too numerous to name, but one, the Lincoln Mint of Chicago, was responsible for the official bicentennial medals struck for the State of California, as well as several other state issues. The series medals have accounted for the vast bulk of the total production, however, and these have been marketed under the guise of investment, with the use of slick and subtle promotions suggestive of investment (though as the result of Federal restrictions, never outright hawking their wares as sure investments).

What has been the result of this cascade of medals-for-profit? For one thing, the public has been overwhelmed with them, for they have been advertised heavily in all manner of national magazines, local newspapers, radio and television, as well as direct mailings to millions of Americans. The legitimate issues of local nonprofit organizations have been lost in the glut of commercial issues, and the public, their enthusiasm dulled by the commercial issues, no longer seems particularly receptive to the legitimate issues, which are usually promoted in an amateur fashion, lacking the slick huckstering of the commercial variety. So people are not buying the medals, which is why so many of the Bicentennial programs withered, and failed to produce the revenues needed for local and civic functions. Moreover, thirteen years of constant promotion of commercial medals has left the public with a sour taste for all medals. Even our coin clubs are having a more difficult time persuading their members to buy their medals.

Finally, these millions of commercial medals have gradually worked their way into the hands of coin dealers, who find them unsalable at any price much above bullion value. Thus they are negatively inclined to purchase them at any price, and tired of having to disappoint the seller, who had bought them at three or more times their bullion value (if silver, as most are), and must now sell at a substantial loss. Thus coin dealers are reluctant to handle medals (and as a fallout of this, tokens as well), so that it becomes more difficult for the collector to acquire pieces he wants. This is a sorry state

of Affairs, the result of over-commercialization and too many fast-buck artists splitting up the same pie, and likely to impugn the medal as a collectible for years to come.

There is one positive ray in all this. Back East, interest in so-called dollars has been rising (and a new book with realistic prices would greatly stimulate that market). Part of this revival may be attributed to the fine efforts of NASCA, a large numismatic auction house and dealer in Rockville Center NY, who has recently bought up the remaindered stock of Kappen & Hibler's catalogs, and is giving them wide promotion. And praise to another giant, Superior Stamp & Coin, of Beverly Hills, for regularly featuring so-called, at high but not outrageous prices, in their house organ, Money Talks.

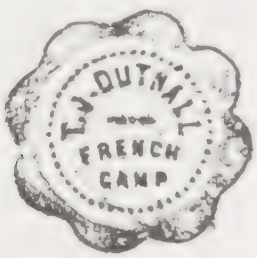
CHEAP AT TWICE THE PRICE: - Member Kendall Ballard writes: "Token hunting in Idaho is at an all time low. I have picked up seven since the first of the year, but right now I do not even have a lead. I did have an interesting experience a few weeks ago. I traded for a token that I had already traded for once before. A couple of years ago I picked up a trader list and there were several Idaho tokens on the list that I did not have. So, I went to work and with much correspondence and work, I was able to make the trade for 11 of the tokens. When the tokens arrived there were only ten in the package. It was one of those padded bags, and I tore it apart inch by inch--no 11th token. After contacting my trader, he assurred me that he had put the token in the sack and that I ought to recheck. I could tell he thought I might be putting the squeeze on him for some extra boot, so I let the situation drop. Last Christmas I got another trade list from clear across the country and again started making calls to pick up some trading material for the five pieces on this list that I needed. Last week they came and upon looking at the lot it came to me that one token was the exact one I had traded for years ago! I really believe that my friend sincerely thought he had put the token in the sack, so I have no grudges, but I get a little chuckle when I look at the tokens from that town to see the little glow that that one token has that I traded for twice."

MORE ON THE CLOCK TOKENS: - Steve Albert says "I enjoyed very much the article on the gambling clocks. Tokens used in such devices fall into the amusement token category. Your AUTO. CASH & DIS. MACH. token is for the Automatic Cashier and Discount Machine, various models of which were introduced in 1901-06 by the Yale Wonder Clock Co. of Burlington, VT. Thus, your YALE WONDER CLOCK tokens are probably clock payout tokens also. I am cataloguing these in the amusement token catalogue, so will appreciate Atwood-style descriptions of the pieces you have. I'm anxious to obtain these clock-gambling machine tokens (I don't have any at present), so keep me in mind if you get duplicates or would trade those you have."

FRENCH CAMP:
OLDEST TOWN IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
by J. L. McPheeters

When I first obtained the T. J. Dutnall drink tokens from French Camp, California, I thought it might be fun to learn more about the town and get some background on Dutnall.

French Camp is located a few miles south of Stockton. It is claimed that the name was given to it by a Frenchman, Michel la Framboise, who, along with many other trappers, used it as a base for their operations. French Camp was also a rendezvous point for the trappers and hunters of The Hudson's Bay Company. At this time, the country around French Camp abounded in beaver, otter, elk, bear and many species of water fowl. The Indians also camped nearby during good weather to hunt and fish.



The earliest record I have of T. J. Dutnall is in Husted's 1895-96 Directory. He is listed there as a farmer living south of French Camp. An old friend of mine says she remembers "Tom" when she was a child as he had a slaughter house across from their ranch.

The first record I have of him as a businessman is in Kingsbury's Directory of 1904. There he is listed as having a hotel in French Camp. The 1905 Suits-Shuman's Directory shows him listed with a "Brisco" in the saloon part of his business; apparently he had taken in a partner. In 1906 I see him listed as also having a grocery. Looks like he pretty well covered the field in his business interests!

The token is aluminum and has eight scallops. Apparently this token had been unearthed and may well have been found when the new Highway I-5 was put in just west of French Camp. Fortunately, it survived in nice condition for as we know most aluminum tokens deteriorate badly after being buried.

DELBRIDGE'S CANDY FACTORY MAVERICKS ATTRIBUTED

by Ron Lerch & Duane H. Feisel

A couple of maverick tokens have mystified collectors in California for a long while. Not especially rare, the tokens occur in aluminum at the larger size and in brass in the smaller size. Some of the brass tokens turned up in the hoard of tokens dredged from Deer Creek which runs through Grass Valley, so it was felt the tokens could be from that area, but no confirmation was found until recently when one of us (DL) obtained a small cardboard folded card, the outside pages of which are reproduced below (there is insufficient space to show the inside two pages which carry some ads and stage line time and distance information). Note the small ad appearing at the bottom of the back cover of this little folder!

Ring up Central for

Telephone Livery Stables

Accommodations Strictly First-class.

Open Day and Night. Charges Reasonable

W. G. LORD, Proprietor.

Res. Phone, No. 18.

Lower Main St., GRASS VALLEY.

MORGAN HOUSE, GRASS VALLEY Newly Furnished. All Modern conveniences. Most Picturesque Location. SAMPLE ROOMS IN BUSINESS CENTER. Free Bus. Rates $1.25 to $2.50 per day. Single Meals 50 cents. Traveling Men's Headquarters.

Albert Morgan, Prop

PRACTICAL METALLURGIST, Assayer and Agency Selby Smelting and Lead Co. Gold, Silver and Lead ores assayed and bought on assay value. Values given on strange looking mineral. Information on Mining properties. A Cooper, Nevada Road, East Grass Valley

N. C. N. G. R. R. TIME TABLE.

Leave for Nevada City:

9:18 A. M. Daily.
4:35 P. M. Daily.
9:15 P. M. Daily.
1:30 P. M. Sundays only.

Leave for Colfax:

6:35 A. M. Daily.
12:45 P. M. Daily.
6:00 P. M. Daily.

PHOENIX DRUG STORE, J. M. Manning. Just opened with new and Fresh Drugs. No old drugs in stock Mill street, Grass Valley.

THE PEERLESS CONFECTIONER

WILL DELBRIDGE.

30 Mill Street, Grass Valley.

CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER. W. P. Oliver, Band Sawing and Turning. 60 Church St., Grass Valley.

UNLISTED STOCKTON, CAL. TOKENS
FOR SALE

1. (Stockton, Cal.) PANAMA SOFT DRINKS, CIGARS & TOBACCO, 302 EAST MARKET // Good For 2-1/2¢ In Merchandise, round aluminum
2. (Stockton, Cal.) PANAMA SOFT DRINKS, CIGARS & TOBACCOS, 302-E. MARKET. // Good For 10¢ In Trade, round aluminum
3. (Stockton, Cal.) PANAMA SOFT DRINKS, CIGARS & TOBACCOS, 302-E. MARKET // Good For 15¢ In Trade, round, aluminum
4. (Stockton, Cal.) PANAMA SOFT DRINKS, CIGARS & TABACCO (sic), 302 EAST MARKET // Good For 25c In Merchandise, round, aluminum

All tokens are in excellent condition, all have beaded borders, all are larger in size than their denomination would indicate, and the 25c has rather fancy numerals.

$15.00 Per Set Of Four, PP

Forrest Dunham 625 No. 130th--#304 Seattle, WA 98133

WANTED: TOKENS and wooden nickels from San Joaquin County, California. Buy or trade.

J. L. McPheeters 472 W. Monterey Stockton, CA 95204

I WOULD LIKE to purchase or trade for Utah, Nevada, Idaho and Arizona trade tokens.

David L. Freed Box 2009 Salt Lake City, UT 84110

I WOULD LIKE to buy or trade for merchants tokens from the following Oregon towns: Adrian, Alpine, Altamount, Antelope, Aurora, Austin, Bay City, Beaverton, Biggs, Bly, Boardman, Bonanza, Brooks, Brownsboro, Butte Falls.

Lyle N. Anderson 1953 S, Merry Way West Linn, OR 97068

CLOCK TOKENS (types discussed on p. 110 of December *LEDGER* wanted. Have tokens to trade or will buy.

Stephen Alpert 11106 National Bl. Los Angeles, CA 90064

WANTED: SOUTH DAKOTA tokens, wooden nickels, medals and associated material. Have mid-west & western tokens to trade. Also want chromium (or chrome-plated) savings banks from your area.

Jim Rasmussen P.O. Box 212192 Sacramento, CA 95821

NO STORE CARD! Series of 14 near-cent-size metal tokens planned. Obverse: shekel. Reverse: 7 scriptures from Living Bible, 7 from Hebrew Masoretic Text. Issues will alternate, May & Nov. through 1983. 3,000 max. mintage ea. issue. Series I, II now available; 1 var. 5/$1.00 & SASE. Mix 10, $1.95 ppd. first class mail. (ANA, AINA, BNS, WESTS)

Scripture Tokens 1528 SE 151st Portland, OR 97233

US BICENTENNIAL medals and tokens wanted. Have some duplicates. Information about medals and tokens for book also greatly appreciated.
David R. Jackson 66 Roe Ave. Northampton, MA 01060

JUST RELEASED: "HAWAIIAN MONEY" standard catalogue including tokens, medals and Royal Orders. 300 photographs, values, hardbound. By Donald Metcalf and Ronald Russell. The most comprehensive listing on the market today--a must for the exonumia collector. Hardbound copy postpaid $10; CA residents add 6% sales tax.
Paul L. Koppenhaver P.O. Box 430 Van Nuys, CA 91408

WANTED TO BUY: Tokens bearing the merchant and/or town surname DONNELLY.
Jack Donnelly P.O. Box 443 Arcadia, CA 91006

POSTCARDS WANTED for my collection of CA town business street scenes and birdseye views; also CA hot springs, cards published by Hess of Stockton, Cal, CA dams and power houses. Also want other western states.
Duane H. Feisel P.O. Box 1302 Los Altos, CA 94022

NEVADA & CALIFORNIA TOKENS mail bid. Send SASE for list.
Phil Balkan 5860 Tobias Ave. Van Nuys, CA 91411

UNLISTED CALIFORNIA TOKEN: Floriston Hotel Bar, Good For 5¢ In Trade. Will trade for an equally rare token from Nevada.
Len Hoskins 1342 Cedar St. Elko, NV 89801

MAIDSTONE CO-OP SOC. LIMITED 1 PINT. Rev. same as obverse, copper, triangle shape. $4.00. MAIDSTONE CO-OP SOC. LTD, LARGE LOAF, rev. same as obverse, copper, eight-sided. $4.00.
Dan Jacobson Box 7101 Sacramento, CA 95826

WANTED: ALL car wash, parking tokens; some available in trade. Also for trade for the above items: dairy, movie, spinner tokens. My saloon token listed in December still available. Wanted also to trade dog and cat license tags with you. Send your list of dupes.
John G. Nicolosi 3002 Galindo St. Oakland, CA 94601

CAN ANYONE ATTRIBUTE: JONES BROS. / Worth / 5¢ On A / Self Service / Car Wash / Texaco; wooden nickel.
Robert Lubetkin 3660 Grand Ave. Des Moines, IA 50312

WILLIGES HAS PAID CASH for 3,644 tokens and medals this year. Many more collections and accumulations needed. Paying highest prices.
Bill Williges P.O. Box 445 Wheatland, CA 95692

Calendar of Coming Events

APRIL 22--Saturday: WESTS SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, at California State Numismatic Accociation 62nd Annual Convention & Coin Show, Jack Tar Hotel, Geary and Van Ness, San Francisco. Meeting starts at 3 PM in Cathedral Hill Room B. Preceeded by 1 PM meeting of the California Exonomist Society, with Charles V. Kappen as speaker on "Token Categories." CSNA show runs April 21-23; exhibits, bourse. General chairman: O.L. Wallis, 58 Tan Oak Circle, San Rafael, CA 94903

APRIL 30--Sunday: Closing date for material for the April issue of the LEDGER

MAY 20--Sunday: Regional WESTS meeting, together with Bay Area Token Society, at home of Ron Lerch, 2901 Land Park Dr., Sacramento, Cal. Noon until 5 PM. All token collectors invited.

JUNE ???: Regional WESTS meeting in Carson City, Nev.

JULY 2--Sunday: Regional WESTS meeting, together with Bay Area Token Society, at home of Duane H. Feisel, Los Altos, Cal. Details to be announced.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: - Thanks to the fine response from our membership, we have a good start on material for the next issue of the LEDGER. Appearing will be:
"Gasoline Vending Tokens" - M. R. Null
"Webster, South Dakota's "Elevator Store"" - Jim Rassmussen
"Western Tokens of Note" - Duane H. Feisel
plus other interesting material. Having this small backlog of articles sure makes the editor's job easier! And the variety of material makes for an interesting publication. Hats off to those who are helping! - DHF

WANTED: EXONUMIA, numismatic items, postcards and small advertising items from Wichita. Still interested in sports schedule tokens and tokens featuring the surname "BAUM."
J.W. Baum 3113 N. Arkansas Ave.Wichita, KS 67204

MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED A FREE SIX-LINE AD IN EACH ISSUE. A DIFFERENT AD MUST BE SUBMITTED EACH TIME. PUT THE AD ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER AND NOT AS PART OF A LETTER. PLEASE SUBMIT IT AS FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE PUBLICATION DEADLINE AS POSSIBLE. NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE IS APRIL 30.

WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY
Duane H. Feisel
P. O. Box 1302
Los Altos, CA 94022

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